

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Mason (Reg. No. 45,962), the undersigned, on 29 February 2008 and on 07 March 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims of the invention have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An address translator comprising:
an interface connected to a plurality of communication networks including at least a first communication network connected to a first host, and a second communication network connected to a second host; and
a table for translating addresses used in said first communication network and addresses used in said second communication network,

wherein the table includes **comprises**:

- a plurality of translation rules for each address used in said first communication network and each address used in said second communication network

, and ; and

a discriminator of temporary addresses for each address used in said first communication network and each address used in said second communication network,

wherein a first discriminator indicates when said address used in said first communication network is a temporary address and said address used in said second communication network is a native address, and

wherein a second discriminator indicates when said address used in said second communication network is a temporary address and said address used in said first communication network is a native address.

wherein said table contains a discriminator for each address to determine whether said address is a native address actually given to said first host or said second host or a virtual address for address translation temporarily given to said first host or said second host, the discriminator being given dynamically to each translation rule.

2. (Currently Amended) An address translator comprising:
 - an interface connected to a plurality of communication networks including at least a first communication network connected to a first host, and a second communication network connected to a second host;
 - a memory storing each address used in said first communication network, each address used in said second communication network, a plurality of translation rules for each address used in said first communication network, and a plurality of translation

rules for each address used in said second communication network, and a discriminator of temporary addresses for each address used in said first communication network and each address used in said second communication network.

wherein a first discriminator indicates when said address used in said first communication network is a temporary address and said address used in said second communication network is a native address, and

wherein a second discriminator indicates when said address used in said second communication network is a temporary address and said address used in said first communication network is a native address; and

a discriminator for each address to determine whether said address is a native address actually given to said first host or said second host or a virtual address translation temporarily given to said first host or said second host, the discriminator being given dynamically to each translation rule; and

a controller for executing translation of each address of said first communication network and each address of said second communication network.

3. (Previously Presented) The address translator according to claim 1, wherein an address translation rule and a corresponding discriminator are recorded in said table, if the address translation rule is not recorded when said address translation is executed.

4. (Previously Presented) The address translator according to claim 2, wherein said controller records, to said memory, an address translation rule and a corresponding discriminator, if the address translation rule is not recorded when said address translation is executed.

5. (Previously Presented) The address translator according to claim 1, further comprising:

a memory for storing said table.

6. (Previously Presented) The address translator according to claim 3, further comprising:

a means for receiving setting instructions for said address translation rule from said first host or said second host.

7. (Previously Presented) The address translator according to claim 4, further comprising:

a means for inputting said address translation rule; and

a means for receiving setting instructions of said address translation rule from said first host or said second host.

8. (Previously Presented) The address translator according to claim 1, further comprising:

a console unit which displays said table.

9. (Previously Presented) The address translator according to claim 2, further comprising:

a console unit which displays contents of said memory.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for translating addresses comprising the steps of:

receiving packets transmitted from hosts via a transmission source communication network; and

translating said packets expressed with a protocol of said transmission source communication network to a protocol of a transmission destination communication network of said packets,

wherein said step of translating said protocol further comprises the steps of:
searching an address translation rule between an address in a received packet and an address used in said transmission destination communication network by referring to an address translation table; and

determining whether a transmission source address of a received packet is actually granted to said host or not by referring to a discriminator of temporary addresses for each address used in said transmission source communication

network and each address used in said transmission destination communication network,

wherein a first discriminator indicates when said address used in said transmission source communication network is a temporary address and said address used in said transmission destination communication network is a native address, and

wherein a second discriminator indicates when said address used in said transmission destination communication network is a temporary address and said address used in said transmission source communication network is a native address.

a discriminator indicating whether said address in the address translation rule is a native address actually given to said host in the transmission source communication network or a virtual address for address translation temporarily given to said host in the transmission source communication network.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of translating addresses according to claim 11, further comprising a step of:

discarding said received packet if the source address of said received packet is not actually granted to said host.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for translating addresses according to claim 12, further comprising a step of:

notifying that said received packet has been discarded to said transmission source communication network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for translating addresses according to claim 11, further comprising a step of:

assigning the address used in said transmission destination communication network if it is proved as a result of said search that the address used in said transmission destination communication network is not yet assigned to said host.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for translating addresses according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

recording the transmission source address of said packet, said assigned address, and the discriminator suggesting that said assigned address is a temporary address to said address translation table.

16. (Original) The method for translating addresses according to claim 15, wherein the newly received packet is discarded when the packet having said assigned temporary address which is set as the destination address through said translation of protocol is newly received.

17. (Previously Presented) The method for translating addresses according to claim 11, wherein said translation of protocol is executed in the timing that setting

instructions of address translation rule from said host are generated.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for translating addresses according to claim 14, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request inquiring said destination address used in the transmission destination communication network from said transmission source communication network by designating the name of destination of the packet;

transferring said inquiry request to a server storing the corresponding relationship between said address and name; and

receiving a response to said inquiry request from said server,
wherein said temporary address is assigned upon reception of said response from said server.

19. (Previously Presented): The method for translating addresses according to claim 18, further comprising a step of:

registering the discriminator suggesting that said assigned address is the temporary address to said address translation table.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for translating addresses according to claim 15, wherein occurrence of a fault is notified to said transmission source and transmission destination communication network when the address corresponding to the discriminator suggesting said temporary address is the native address of the host registered to said transmission source communication network or said transmission

destination communication network.

21. (Original) The method for translating addresses according to claim 18, wherein occurrence of a fault is notified to said transmission source communication network when the discriminator suggesting that the address notified with the response from said server is the temporary address is registered.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

4. Claims 1-9 and 11-21 (renumbered as claims 1-20) are allowable over the prior art of record.

5. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on 03 October, 2007 with respect to the amended claim limitations and further amended claim limitations in the Examiner's Amendment (see Attached) point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip B. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip B Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2155
March 07, 2008